

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EA-09 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07
IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-07 OES-07
DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-04 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01
USIA-15 FEA-01 /138 W
-----046834 222203Z /70

R 221730Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9255
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
ERDA WASHDC
ERDA GERMANTOWN
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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USEEC; USIAEA

DEPT PASS NRC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, GW
SUBJECT: GERMAN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ABOUT FRG DECLARATION ON NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICY

REF: BONN 10178 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF AN INTERVIEW GIVEN BY FRG GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN GRUENEWALD ON THE DECISION OF THE FRG GOVERNMENT TO STOP THE SALE OF REPROCESSING PLANTS. THE ANNOUNCE-
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MENT WAS MADE ON JUNE 17 AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE REGULAR GERMAN-FRENCH CONSULTATIONS AND WAS PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL PRESS BRIEFING OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN INFORMAL TRANSLATION:

QUESTION: DOES THIS DECISION NOT STAND IN MARKED CONTRAST TO OTHER VERY RECENT REMARKS BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, SUCH AS FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER DURING HIS VISIT TO MEXICO, WHO SAID THAT THE FRG WAS WILLING TO TRANSFER NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO ANY NATION??

ANSWER(GRUENEWALD): NO, THIS IS NOT TRUE. LET ME CORRECT THIS. MINISTER GENSCHER TALKED ABOUT NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN MEXICO WHICH IS SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM A REPROCESSING PLANT. SUCH POWER PLANTS OPERATE ALL OVER THE WORLD AND THE FRG HAS ALREADY EXPORTED SOME AND HAS APPROVED THE SALE OF OTHERS. IN THIS REGARD OUR EXPORT POLICY WILL NOT CHANGE AT ALL. THE DECISION OF THE CABINET WHICH WAS PUBLISHED BY THE CHANCELLOR AFTER THE GERMAN-FRENCH MEETINGS ONLY COVERS THE EXPORT OF REPROCESSING PLANTS AND REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGIES. LET ME ADD HERE THAT NO GERMAN FIRM HAS YET DELIVERED REPROCESSING PLANTS OR EVEN SUCH TECHNOLOGIES ON A COMMERCIAL SCALE. THERE IS ONLY ONE CASE IN WHICH A PILOT PLANT IS SUBJECT OF AN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT; THE CASE OF BRAZIL. IN THIS CASE THE CABINET DECISION SAYS THAT EXISTING AGREEMENTS AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION ARE NOT TO BE AFFECTED BY THIS NEW POLICY, BECAUSE THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY DOUBT THAT THE FRG WOULD HONOR ITS OBLIGATIONS.

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Q: WHY WAS THE DECLARATION PUBLISHED AFTER THE FRENCH-GERMAN CONSULTATIONS??

GRUENEWALD: IT COULD HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED EARLIER. YOU KNOW THAT WE HAVE A FAR REACHING COOPERATION WITH FRANCE IN ALL POLITICAL MATTERS, THAT WE HAVE TIGHTLY COORDINATED OUR NUCLEAR POLICIES AND, THIRDLY, THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED A COMPARABLE DECISION LAST DECEMBER. ALL THIS SUGGESTED THAT WE SYNCHRONIZE THE CABINET DECISION WITH OUR FRENCH PARTNERS. THE DECLARATION WAS PREPARED WITHIN GERMAN RESPONSIBILITY AND UNDER TOTAL AUTONOMY. WE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO DURING OUR CONSULTATIONS. THEREFORE: NO EARLIER, NO LATER.

Q. WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION? IS IT A REACTION TO AMERICAN PRESSURE ON THE BRAZILIAN DEAL?

A. NO, I WOULD NOT SAY SO. I MENTIONED EARLIER THAT THIS DECISION IS NOT AIMED AT ANY CONCRETE AGREEMENT,

EXISTING OR UNDER NEGOTIATION. HOWEVER, WE ALL REALIZE
THAT AN INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION HAS STARTED WHICH,

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IN PART BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY, DEALS WITH REPROCESSING
TECHNOLOGY AND ITS INTERNATIONAL PROLIFERATION.
ALL THIS CONTAINS A LOT OF PROBLEMS. REPROCESSING
TECHNOLOGY ITSELF IS NOT ADVANCED SO FAR THAT IT IS
COMMERCIALY FEASIBLE. WE WANTED TO MAKE A CONSTRUC-
TIVE CONTRIBUTION AND TO ASSURE THAT THE DISCUSSION OF
NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION CAN BE CONTINUED ALONG THE
LINE IT STARTED. THEREFORE, WE MADE THE DECISION
WHICH, AND THIS SHOULD BE MENTIONED, IS ONLY OF AN
INTERIM NATURE AND CAN BE WITHDRAWN. IT IS UP TO THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE WHEN AND IF TO REVISE ITS
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POSITION.

Q. WHAT COULD CAUSE SUCH A RENUNCIATION??

A. YESTERDAY'S DECLARATION DOES NOT ONLY CONTAIN ONE POINT BUT FIVE. DURING THE LATEST SUMMIT MEETING IN LONDON A VERY FUNDAMENTAL DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE ABOUT THIS SUBJECT AND THE SEVEN HEADS OF STATE AGREED THAT THE ENERGY NEED OF THE WORLD MAKES THE PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY ESSENTIAL, THAT THIS ENERGY SOURCE HAS TO BE OFFERED TO OTHER NATIONS AS WELL, BUT THAT SIMULTANEOUSLY THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS' TECHNOLOGY HAS TO BE PREVENTED. TO THIS END THE SEVEN HEADS OF STATE COMMISSIONED A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE BEST METHODS TO ACHIEVE THIS INTENTION. ON THE BASIS OF THESE RESULTS, ON THE BASIS OF OUR PRINCIPLE THAT NO NATIONS MAY BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN THE INTERNATIONAL UTILIZATION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY, WE MADE OUR DECISION. THERE IS STILL ANOTHER IMPORTANT POINT WE START FROM THE FACT THAT IN THE FUTURE EXISTING AGREEMENTS ABOUT THE SUPPLY OF THE NECESSARY NUCLEAR FUEL WILL BE HONORED. THIS ALL MEANS THEN THAT THE CABINET'S DECISION IS HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON CERTAIN, EXACTLY SPECIFIED CONDITIONS.
END INFORMAL TRANSLATION.

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